

FLASHING, OSCILLATING, OR ROTATING LIGHTS

The use and possession of flashing, oscillating, or rotating lights of ANY color is prohibited* except as otherwise provided by law or under the following circumstances:				
Vehicle Description	Red Lights	Blue Lights	White Lights	Amber Lights
Police Vehicles	Shall be equipped with red or blue. MCL 257.698(5)(a)		May display in conjunction with an authorized emergency light prescribed in this section. MCL 257.698(5)(g)	no
Fire Vehicles for public use	Shall be equipped. MCL 257.698(5)(b)	no		
Ambulance public or private				
Private motor vehicle owned by a volunteer or paid fire fighter, a volunteer ambulance driver, or a licensed ambulance driver or attendant. Must be authorized by the Chief of the local fire department.	May be equipped, must be mounted on the roof. MCL 257.698(5)(c)			
School Bus Public Transit Vehicle	Shall be equipped with two alternately flashing red lights at both the front and the rear. Public Act 187 of 1990 Section 17		no	Must be mounted on roof, displayed only during inclement weather, while boarding or discharging passengers, from ½ hour before sunset until ½ hour after sunrise, or where conditions hinder visibility of the bus. PA 187 of 1990, Section 31
Emergency support vehicles Vehicles must be used exclusively for emergencies and owned and operated by a federally recognized nonprofit charitable organization. MCL 257.698(5)(c)	May be equipped, must be mounted on the roof. MCL 257.698(5)(c)	no	no	no
Physicians vehicle Must obtain written authorization from the county sheriff.	May be equipped, must be mounted on roof. MCL 257.698(5)(h)			
State, county, and municipal vehicles	no			Shall be used while engaged in the removal of ice, snow, or other material from the highways. MCL 257.698(5)(d)
Private security guard	no	no	no	Shall not be activated on a public highway when the vehicle is in motion. MCL 257.698(7)
A person that is engaged in the manufacture, sale, or repair of these lights.	May possess lights, however shall not activate the lights upon a highway unless authorized to do so under the direction of the proper authority (for demonstration or repair purposes). MCL 257.698(5)(i)			
A person who possess or uses a light contrary to any of the above is guilty of a misdemeanor.				

FLASHING, OSCILLATING, OR ROTATING LIGHTS Use and Possession				
Vehicle Description	Red Lights	Blue Lights	White Lights	Amber Lights
A vehicle used for the cleanup of spills or a necessary emergency response action taken pursuant to state or federal law.	no	no	no	Lights shall <u>not</u> be activated unless the vehicle is at the scene of a spill, emergency response action, complaint, or compliance activity. MCL 257.698(5)(e)
A vehicle operated by an employee of the DNR that responds to a spill, emergency response action, complaint, or compliance activity.	no	no	no	
Hearse or funeral vehicle*	no	no	no	Amber or Purple MCL 257.698(5)(g)
A motor vehicle while escorting an oversize load that has been issued a permit.	no	no	no	May be equipped, however shall not be activated except in those circumstances that the warning produced by the lights is required for public safety. MCL 257.698(5)(f)
A vehicle owned by the national guard or a United States military vehicle while traveling under a recognized military authority.	no	no	no	
A farm tractor, an implement of husbandry or a motor vehicle while towing an implement of husbandry.	no	no	no	
Public utility service vehicles	no	no	no	
Privately owned vehicle of a peace officer	Allowed only if the vehicle is being <i>used</i> as a police vehicle. Attorney General Opinion No. 3142, 1957		no	
Vehicle operated by a mail carrier	no	no	no	
Vehicle delivering newspapers or other publications	no	no	no	
Vehicle utilized for snow removal	no	no	no	
Vehicle engaged in authorized highway repair or maintenance	no	no	no	
Wrecker or automobile service car	May be equipped, shall be activated <i>only</i> when engaged in the removal or assistance of a vehicle. MCL 257.698(5)(f)	no	no	
Garbage truck or refuse vehicle	no	no	no	
Selling, Loaning, or Furnishing Lights				
A person shall not sell, loan or otherwise furnish a flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue or red light designed primarily for installation on an authorized emergency vehicle to a person except a police officer, volunteer or paid firefighter, volunteer ambulance driver, licensed ambulance driver or attendant of the state, a county or municipality within the state, a person engaged in the business of operating an ambulance or wrecker service, or a federally recognized nonprofit charitable organization which owns and operates an emergency support vehicle used exclusively for emergencies. MCL 257.698(6)				
A person who possess or uses a light contrary to any of the above is guilty of a misdemeanor.				

*Changes effective 7/8/98.